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JOINT UNITED NATIONS/UNIDO CONFERENCE SERVICES

Progress report by the Director-General

1. In its decision GC.5/Dec.19, the General Conference, inter alia, urged the Director-General to finalize with the United Nations as soon as possible the arrangements for the transfer of administrative responsibility for conference services from UNIDO to the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), effective 1 January 1995. The present report provides information on the progress achieved in the implementation of that decision.

2. As a result of working-level discussions between UNOV and UNIDO, draft revised estimates were prepared under Section 25E (Conference and Library Services, Vienna) of the United Nations Programme Budget for the biennium 1994-1995, which provide a budgetary basis for the transfer of administrative responsibility for conference services to UNOV effective 1 January 1995.

3. The tripartite Advisory Committee for Conference Services (ACCS) at the Vienna International Centre reviewed the draft revised estimates and approved them in principle. Consequently, the draft was routed for final approval in the United Nations Secretariat, after which it should be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and subsequently to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

4. ACCS also reviewed and approved in principle a draft agreement between UNIDO and the United Nations regarding the new unified conference service and a draft plan of action for the transfer of conference services to UNOV.

5. As provided for in General Conference decision GC.5/Dec.19, the transfer arrangements will be implemented within the net resource allocations of those programmes affected and included in the programme and budgets, 1994-1995, approved by the General Conference in its decision GC.5/Dec.18 (IDB.11/32, Programme 1120).

6. The arrangements provide for the transfer to the administration of UNOV of all the staff of the Languages and Documentation Service of UNIDO. The acquired rights and contractual status of the staff members concerned will not be affected by the transfer. The posts in the Languages and Documentation Service included currently in the UNIDO programme and budgets will be transferred to the UNOV budget as of 1 January 1995.

7. The Industrial Development Board may wish to take note of the present progress report.

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